

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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R 221515Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9707
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 5523

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR

SUBJ: PRESS TREATMENT OF STATEMENT BY GREEK AMBASSADOR

1. THE ATHENS NEWSPAPERS ON JULY 22 REPORTED THE STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS ISSUED IN WASHINGTON ON JULY 21 CONCERNING THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE RESUMPTION OF U.S. MILITARY AID TO TURKEY. THE PRESS ACCOUNTS GENERALLY INCLUDED THE STATEMENT IN BROADER COVERAGE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH HR 8454.

2. ACCORDING TO REPORTS HERE ALEXANDRAKIS SAID THE FOLLOWING IN HIS STATEMENT (PRESUMABLY ISSUED ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE GREEK GOVERNMENT): " I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ARE IN DOUBT AS TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE ON THE RESUMPTION OF THE DELIVERY OF ARMS TO TURKEY BY THE UNITED STATES. OBVIOUSLY IT IS NOT UP TO ME TO INTERFERE IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE LEGISLATIVE AND THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES OF THIS COUNTRY. IT IS ALSO EQUALLY OBVIOUS, HOWEVER, THAT NO ONE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, IS AUTHORIZED TO EXPRESS THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THIS MATTER. IN THIS CONNECTION I WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S

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POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT IS WELL KNOWN, AND IT CANNOT HAVE CHANGED

SINCE THE ACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH DETERMINED IT HAVE NOT CHANGED."
(UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION)

3. SEVERAL NESSPAPERS EXTRAPOLATED FROM THE TEXT OF ALEXANDRAKIS' STATEMENT TO STATE EXPLICITLY THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT OPPOSED THE RESUMPTION OF AID TO TURKEY. FOR EXAMPLE, CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI CLAIMED THAT ALEXANDRAKIS REVEALED THAT THE WHITE HOUSE IS ATTEMPTING TO MISLEAD THE HOUSE BY CLAIMING THAT EVEN GREECE WANTS U.S. ARMS TO BE GIVEN TO TURKEY. ACCORDING TO KATHIMERINI'S ACCOUNT, ALEXANDRAKIS INDICATED THIS CREATED DOUBTS AND CONFUSION IN THE HOUSE. HE THEN STATED, KATHIMERINI REPORTED, THAT THE POSITION OF GREECE IS UNCHANGED - NO WEAPONS FOR THE TURKS SO LONG AS THEY REMAIN INTRANSIGENT AND PROVOCATIVE.

4. HEADLINES WERE: "PROTEST OF THE GREEK AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON - GREECE ACCUSES THAT THE AMERICAN CONGRESS IS DECEIVED WITH LIES - IN ORDER TO ARPPROVE AID TO TURKEY" (KATHIMERINI, PRO-GOVERNMENT); EVEN BY SPREADING RUMORS - FORD'S LAST EFFORTS FOR THE AID - CONGRESS WILL DECIDE POSSIBLY ON WEDNESDAY" (TO VIMA, OPPOSITION); "ATHENS' POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF U.S. AID TO TURKEY REMAINS UNCHANGED" (ELEFTHEROS COSMOS, RIGHTIST); "CATEGORIC STATEMENT BY THE GREEK AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON - GREECE DOES NOT WANT RESUMPTION OF AID TO TURKEY - SO THAT AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN WILL NOT BE DECEIVED - THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT BELIEVES THAT CONGRESS WILL LIFT THE BAN" (AKROPOLIS, PRO-GOVERNMENT). KUBISCH

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